



# The Cherry Tree



Volume 3, Issue 4

Command Ombudsman Newsletter

May 2004

USS George Washington (CVN 73)

## The Captain's Call

Captain M. J. Erdosy  
Commanding Officer, USS George Washington (CVN 73)

Hello Families and friends of *USS George Washington*! Can you believe that this is May already? Hard to believe another month has blasted by! The crew has been doing great! Today we did a refueling at sea that was the best I have ever seen! We practiced our procedures for an emergency break away and we were finished in less than a minute! Most days it takes six or seven minutes to perform this task. Later, we had a man overboard that was rescued in less than 10 minutes. I am really proud of this crew and their performance! We are making a difference in Iraq with our presence here. We have flown CVW-7 aircraft over the beach almost every day that we have been out here. It hasn't been all work though! After 50 days at sea, we pulled the ship into the United Arab Emirates for some well-deserved liberty. Most sailors did a little touring, a little shopping and enjoyed lots of good food in the many restaurants in the city.

We are celebrating several important things this month: Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Asian Pacific Islander Month, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Navy Family Support Group Appreciation Month! I am particularly proud of the accomplishments of our Family Support Groups! All of you have been doing great things to support each other and your loved ones on the ship! Your efforts and the peace of mind that results are making a difference in the operations of the ship. Thank you!

We are also celebrating the promotion of nearly 300 GW Sailors! Eight master chiefs, Eight senior chiefs, 175 first class petty officers, 92 second class petty officers and 144 new third class petty officers. What great news! Not only are we doing great things for our country, but our Sailors are enjoying great professional successes too! Many of your Sailors are taking advantage of our time in the tax free zone to collect a little extra money with their reenlistment! Just yesterday, I took part in a ceremony where three sailors reenlisted for a total of well over \$100,000!

Lots of talk about the schedule! Because of the events in Iraq and the pending changes there at the end of June, it looks like there will be some change to our schedule. There are several proposals being considered, but none have been officially approved! Not time to change any of our plans yet. I will let you know if changes are going to effect any of the planning that has already been accomplished.

Everyone is doing fine! It is a nice feeling knowing that we will be home in about two months! It will be summer time and we all look forward to the vacation!

Sincerely,

Captain Marty

## CMC's Take

CMDCM(SW/AW/SCW) Scott Benning  
Command Master Chief, USS George Washington (CVN 73)

Hello GW Families! Your Sailors continue to do great things and continue to be successful in many ways. Your support from home has also been a large contributing factor to our team's success. We recently received another one of those great shipments of candy and treats that places a smile on everyone's face. Our single Sailors really appreciate the fact that you think of them. Their smiles say it all.

We have had many reasons for celebration this month: May 12 was Spouse Appreciation Day. The captain placed a personal note to all of our spouses on the web site. Please take a moment and read his note. You will see very quickly how important all of you are to the GW family and team. Our success starts at home with all of you and defending our country would not be possible without your support. Please also take a moment to thank your Spouse Support Group Officers, as this month was Family Support Group Appreciation month. Everyone who participates in the family support groups contribute to the success of the group. But the officers make a special commitment in which we cannot express our appreciation enough. Also, during the past month, our Ombudsmen have done a fantastic job organizing and administering the video teleconferences that have been occurring for the families and Sailors. I know many of you have participated in this and it is a special gift to be around the world and to see your loved ones while talking with them. Thanks to all of you that make deployment and separations bearable with your support and understanding when the need arises.

Luanne Beatty is organizing the Final Fling and asked me to share some information with you. This is a celebration for the spouses that will be conducted on July 8th to celebrate the approach of the end of deployment. We had almost 300 at the half-way party so once again the group is expecting a large turn out. The last day to purchase tickets is June 28. The celebration will take place at the Shifting Sands Club on the Dam Neck base in Virginia Beach. The Social Hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$5 for E-6 and below families, \$10 for E-7 - E-9 families and \$15 for Officer families. If you have any questions, you may e-mail the following address [summercelebration73@yahoo.com](mailto:summercelebration73@yahoo.com). This is going to be another great event that I know everyone will enjoy. The tickets will go fast so please call early. Thank you Luanne for putting together what I know will be a great event. You may also contact one of our Ombudsmen for additional information.

The friendships that you build as you participate in the family support groups will make you look back on this deployment as a very positive experience. We will all be stronger, you will have gained some life long friends and the reunion on the pier in the near future is going to be amazing. We are getting close and I assure you that your Sailors are very happy to be getting closer to home to be with you. I thank you all again for everything that you are doing to make this deployment a memorable event. We are spreading the "Spirit of Freedom," and have all of you in our thoughts and prayers as we achieve success.

Sincerely,  
CMC Scott Benning

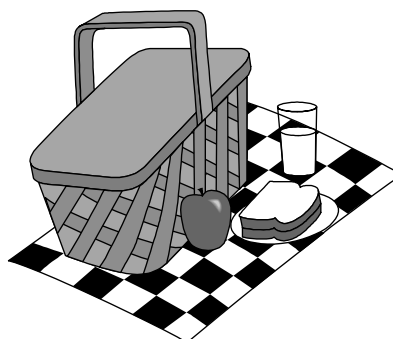
# NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

## Enlisted Family Support Group Updates

- May 28 is a free concert at Little Creek and the band is "Lonestar." The concert starts at 7 p.m.
- Mark your calendars for June 12 and July 10. These are dates for upcoming picnics that are still in the planning stages.
- The Adult Final Fling "Summer Celebrations" will be held on Thursday July 8 in the Shifting Sands Club on Damneck Base. The cost of tickets are \$5 for E6 and below, \$10 for E7-E9 and \$15 for all Officers. The dress for this occasion is Summer Celebration, but please, *no shorts*. Friends and adult family members are welcome. For more information e-mail [summercelebration73@yahoo.com](mailto:summercelebration73@yahoo.com).
- Our next Support Group Meeting is Monday, June 7 at the Waterfront Chaplain's Center inside gate 5. Social starts at 6:30 and the meeting promptly at 7 p.m.

## Officer Support Group Activities

- May 31 – Last day to purchase Busch Garden 2 days for 1 price at ITT.
- June 3 – Homecoming Meeting
- June 6 – Goodie bags are due.
- June 12 – BUNCO at Kari's House
- June 24 – Changing Seasons Boutique Party



**DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR A CHANCE TO BE THE FIRST ONE ON THE SHIP AT HOMECOMING!**



## FIRST KID/KISS TICKETS

You may make a donation of 1.00 per ticket and have your name or your child's name placed on these tickets for a drawing at the Final Fling. Contact Susan Forsgren for more information at [jay\\_suebee@hotmail.com](mailto:jay_suebee@hotmail.com) or [gwpres2003@aol.com](mailto:gwpres2003@aol.com) for more information. Tickets are available at most support group functions.

# GW welcomes CNO, MCPON

By J01 Tracey Goff and J02(SW) John Osborne

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON(SS/AW) Terry Scott, visited *USS George Washington* in the Arabian Gulf on April 17. It was proof positive that the mission of the *GW* is presence with a purpose and to provide air power to the ground troops fighting *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. "I flew halfway around the world for one reason: to look you in the eye and tell you that I'm so proud of you I don't know what to do," Clark told the Sailors who had gathered in the hangar bay. "All the members of the units in this strike group are sending an important message not just to enemies that we're facing on the battlefield, but to the whole world, that the United States of America is going to stand up and do what has to be done."

When *GW*'s Commanding Officer, Capt. Martin Erdosy, introduced Clark, he made no bones about the strides the CNO has made in improving the state of the Navy, Sailors' training and their quality of life since he took the position almost four years ago. He also pointed out that in Clark's 40 years of service, he has gained the perspective necessary to ensure the Navy's future.

"Adm. Vern Clark has been in command for every grade since he was a lieutenant," Erdosy said. "Now he is in command of the greatest Navy that ever sailed the seven seas. He has not only increased the quality of service to you as his Sailors, but also the operational readi-



**Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON(SS/AW) Terry Scott and *GW*'s Commanding Officer, Capt. Martin Erdosy, listen as Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark, addresses Sailors in Hanger Bay 2.**

ness of our Navy. He's charted our future. He's provided clear and precise guidance of where we're going to go with our Navy into the 21st century."

During their three-hour visit, Clark attended an operations brief while Scott addressed the chief petty officers in the CPO's Mess. Then they both addressed the crew during an all-hands Admiral's Call. With every question they answered, every picture they posed for and every hand they shook, they delivered the message that today's U.S. Navy is the most powerful because of its people, and he wanted them to know how much they are counted on daily to maintain America's power.

"I learned a long time ago that we can create the best technology in the world, but it doesn't mean anything if you don't have the men and women who are committed to bring that capability alive," Clark said. "We have a Navy to take credible, persistent combat power to the far corners of the Earth, and to provide options for the President of the United States, anywhere, anytime, around the world, around the clock, without a permission slip. That's what our business is about."

Sailors of all ranks took advantage of this rare opportunity to talk to the Navy's senior officer and top enlisted man, touching on several topics that are at the top of Clark's priority list. Among them was Perform to Serve, Fleet Response Plan, High-Year Tenure and the CNO's expectations of

senior leadership. As they fielded questions on each of these topics, the theme of opportunity was apparent in each answer, and they challenged Navy leaders to provide the people in their charge that chance. At the end of the day, though, they made it clear that it's up to each individual Sailor to do something with what they've been given.

"With every change and every challenge comes an opportunity," Scott said. "It's what you're going to make with that opportunity, what you're going to grasp with it, that's going to take us into the future. What I would ask you to think about is what's going to be your contribution?"

Clark said he expects the Navy's leaders to go beyond what's written on paper and get to know the Sailors in their charge so that they can better direct them in their careers. "I don't believe we take advantage of all the skill and capabilities in our enlisted structure," Clark said. "You're looking for your leaders to give you a chance to make a difference, an opportunity to prove what you can do. That's what this generation of leaders is all about, and that's what we're committed to giving you."

"I want to know what a person's characteristics really are. I don't think our evaluation system does that. I want a performance appraisal system where people sit down and tell you what you need to do to get ahead. That means somebody looks you right in the eye and tells you, 'these are your strengths. But oh, by the way, here are things you can do better.' If we do that, it will help us grow. It will make us more objective."

Clark once again thanked everyone for all they do and then concluded the all-

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see CNO on Page 4



## VISIT *from Page 1*

hands call by reminding everyone how important the on-going war in Iraq is, and how there is a bigger picture that may not always be apparent in the midst of all the fighting.

“President Bush said the other night that what we’re doing in Iraq is really important,” he said. “It’s important because we’re now engaged in a battle over ideals, principles and values. We can either see to it that Iraq becomes a model of democracy in this part of the world where people have choices, or we can leave Iraq to become a haven for terrorism that in the future will branch out and affect the whole world.

“I understand the nature of the challenge and sacrifice for you. And I want you to know the highest honor that has been given to me in my life is the honor of serving alongside men and women like you who are committed to making a difference in a world where challenges exist.”

With those parting words, Clark and Scott left the stage and spent some time getting to know the men and women on *GW*. Clark’s wife of 40 years, Connie, was also on hand and she said perhaps the most important thing that every Sailor on every deployed ship wants to hear.

“While you’re a long way from home, you’re not far from prayers and thoughts of many people,” she said. “We really appreciate you.”



PH3(AW/SW) Joan Kretchner

**MCPON(SS/AW) Terry Scott paid a visit to the CPO Mess and reminded chiefs of the crucial role they play in Sailor development.**

# Enlisted to Officer of the Deck: Chief finds ‘satisfaction’ calling the action on Bridge

*By JO3 Elizabeth Enockson*

*USS George Washington* needs all of her Sailors to maintain high standards in excellence, leadership and commitment. Recently, ICC(SW/AW) T.J. Martin proved his commitment to being one of *GW*’s best by going above and beyond his rating’s



JO3 Elizabeth Enockson

**ICC(SW/AW) T.J. Martin becomes one of the elite enlisted men to qualify for OOD on *GW*. Here he uses the ARPA to determine the closest point of approach of other ships in the region.**

call to become qualified as Officer of the Deck underway, a qualification normally reserved for officers. “It’s becoming fairly common for chiefs on smaller ships to earn OOD underway,” said SMCM(SW) Steven Lominac, who was the only chief to earn this qualification when he sailed on *GW* 10 years ago. “It’s possible that Chief Martin might be the second chief on the ship to qualify.”

Earning OOD underway can certainly help a chief’s career, but Martin didn’t qualify to advance himself. He pursued the qualification out of a thirst for knowledge and to make his career in the Navy more fulfilling. “It was something different that gave me a lot of personal satisfaction in achieving,” Martin said. “I was on the bridge for a 3M spot check with [Commanding Officer] Capt. M J. Erdossy. He had to check on something the conning officer was doing and invited me over to take a look. I found it so interesting that I ran a request chit and started working on Tactical Operations Plot, the first watch qualification I needed in order to start working on the bridge.”

A short time later, Martin was taken off the engineering watch bill and started standing watches on the bridge. Working his way through TOP, Junior Officer of the Watch, and Junior Officer of the Deck, it took him one year to even start working on OOD. “Chief Martin had already qualified JOOD last August when I arrived,” said Lt. Cmdr. Hills, *GW*’s damage control assistant. “He’s very level headed and he wanted

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the watch, so he took it on and learned the watch all for himself. I helped answer his questions and off he would go to learn something new.”

The hours Martin put into earning the OOD qualification are impressive, but what makes it more special in his case is that Sailors in his rating normally don’t even work on the bridge. “What’s exceptional about Chief Martin is just how rare it is for someone from engineering to earn OOD,” Lominac said. “Even on smaller ships, where it’s more common for enlisted to earn the qualification, it’s still rare for someone from the engineering side of the house to step up and get it.”

Even if he didn’t work on the bridge before, Martin is finding he fits in well and is grateful for all the help he received in earning his qualifications. “All of the officers on the bridge were great,” Martin said. “Every one from the executive officer to the assist navigator and Lt. Cmdr. Hills helped me out tremendously. Capt. Erdossy is great about giving me directions and pointers on how I can do things better. Even if I’m not an officer, everyone on the bridge is completely professional and respects the authority of the position I’m standing.”

Positional authority that is derived from the incredible amount of responsibility required. “OOD is a huge responsibility, because the watch stander is responsible for the movement of a 98,000-ton carrier while launching planes, completing special details such as pulling in and out of port and conning along side another ship during a replenishment,” Hills said. “It takes a very level-headed person who has proven they deserve the captain’s trust.”

When he completed the OOD underway qualification process, Martin had an oral board with Erdossy and the Navigator, Cmdr. David Kiehl. Proving that he has what it takes and that the captain’s trust wasn’t misplaced, he walked away a fully-qualified OOD.

What is Martin planning to do now? Even he’s not quite sure. “The next qualification up is Command Duty Officer underway,” Martin said. “It’s reserved for O-5 and above, so I’m probably out of luck on that one. Right now I’m just rotating through watches to give everyone a chance to get qualified.”

With Martin qualified, OOD might begin to look like a more obtainable goal for chiefs to strive for. “I saw a senior chief standing watch on the bridge earlier this week,” Lominca said. “I hope this will promote the idea of more enlisted people earning this qualification.”

## ***Keeping things clean!***

**Whether it’s keeping the flight deck clear of FOD or giving one the aircraft a bath, cleanliness on board is essential to the safe and successful completion of the mission. The *USS George Washington/Carrier Air Wing 7* team devote many hours to cleaning as part of their preparation for flight operations.**



PHAN Michael Blackwell



PHAN Michael Blackwell

# TRICARE keeping GW families healthy

By JO3 Elizabeth Enockson

Sailors on *USS George Washington* never have to worry about receiving medical care underway, but that doesn't necessarily mean their families at home always have that same luxury. However, Sailors can take steps to get their families enrolled in TRICARE and ensure their medical concerns are minimized. With TRICARE, Sailors and their families can walk into any military hospital or TRICARE authorized medical facility and receive medical attention by presenting their military ID and their TRICARE card.

"TRICARE is for military members and their families," said HM3 Nancy Corbett, who handles much of the TRICARE paperwork for *GW* Sailors. "If a Sailor is married with dependants (children or step children), they need to make sure they're enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System so they are eligible for TRICARE."

Underway, Sailors can register their family members on the DEERS website [www.tricare.osd.mil/deersaddress](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deersaddress) or over the phone 1-800-558-9552. "Sailors should update their information on DEERS whenever something changes in their life," Corbett said. "Important information like marriages, births, changes of address, deaths and divorces needs to be updated on DEERS. One important thing Sailors often forget is taking dependants off the plan when they reach 18 or 21 if they're attending college. The plan does not automatically update when the dependant reaches 18, so not taking their name off the plan is going to end up costing the plan holder more in the long run."

Once Sailors have their families registered with DEERS, they need to decide what form of TRICARE is right for them. TRICARE Prime Remote and TRICARE Standard are the only two options available to active duty personnel. "Prime is for Sailors and families that live and work more than 50 miles or one hour's drive from the nearest military treatment facility," Corbett said. "When registered with Prime, Sailors can use a pre-authorized Primary Care Manager of their choice. If there is no pre-authorized PCM in the local area, they are authorized to use any TRICARE certified provider available."

Prime requires no enrollment fee. It also makes it possible for Sailors to transfer from one duty station to the next in another region without having to disenroll and re-enroll. It will cover both Sailors and their families and can cover non-emergency services.

TRICARE Standard only pays for medically-necessary operations and requires Sailors to pay for part of the medical costs, plus anything not covered by the policy. "Standard is for the family, but Sailors will have to share the cost with TRICARE," Corbett said. "Standard doesn't cover active duty service members, but it allows family members to go to civilian facilities that are TRICARE approved when they can't get to a military facility."

For Sailors whose family members are covered by either form of TRICARE, but end up going to a facility not covered by TRICARE, it is still possible to get partially reimbursed. "If they're covered by TRICARE and they end up going to another facility, they can bring in the original bill, and we help them fill out a claims form to get them paid back," Corbett said. "There is no guarantee they will get all of their money back."

"TRICARE is not as difficult as it sounds," Corbett continued. "It's just like any other insurance company and it's military funded. It's good for everyone to have someone help them pay their medical bills."

Sailors who want additional information can find more details at: [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) or contact HM3 Nancy Corbett at J-7703.



GW Photo lab

**Knowing the ins and outs of TRICARE is essential to maintaining the best health care for Navy families.**



# 150 WAYS TO SHOW YOUR KIDS THAT YOU CARE



1. Notice them. 2. **Smile a lot.** 3. Acknowledge them. 4. Learn their names. 5. Seek them out. 6. Remember their birthday. 7. Ask them about themselves. 8. Look in their eyes when you talk to them. 9. Listen to them. 10. Play with them. 11. Read aloud together. 12. **Giggle together.** 13. Be nice. 14. **Say yes a lot.** 15. Tell them their feelings are okay. 16. Set boundaries that keep them safe. 17. Be honest. 18. Be yourself. 19. Listen to their stories. 20. **Hug them.** 21. Forget your worries sometimes and concentrate only on them. 22. Notice when they're acting differently. 23. Present options when they seek your counsel. 24. **Play outside together.** 25. Surprise them. 26. **Stay with them when they are afraid.** 27. Invite them over for juice. 28. Suggest better behaviors when they act out. 29. Feed them when they are hungry. 30. Delight in their discoveries. 31. Share their excitement. 32. Send them a letter or postcard. 33. Follow them when they lead. 34. Notice them when they are absent. 35. Call them to say hello. 36. **Hide surprises for them to find.** 37. Give them space when they need it. 38. Contribute to their collections. 39. Discuss their dreams and nightmares. 40. Laugh at their jokes. 41. Be relaxed. 42. Kneel, squat or sit so you're at their eye level. 43. Answer their questions. 44. Tell them how terrific they are. 45. **Create a tradition with them and keep it.** 46. Learn what they have to teach. 47. Use your ears more than your mouth. 48. Make yourself available. 49. Show up at their concerts, games and events. 50. **Find a common interest.** 51. Hold hands during a walk. 52. Apologize when you've done something wrong. 53. Listen to their favorite music with them. 54. **Keep the promises you make.** 55. Wave and smile when you part. 56. **Display their artwork in your home.** 57. Thank them. 58. Point out what you like about them. 59. Clip magazine pictures or articles that interest them. 60. Give them lots of compliments. 61. Catch them doing something right. 62. Encourage win-win solutions. 63. **Give them your undivided attention.** 64. Ask for their opinion. 65. Have fun together. 66. **Be curious with them.** 67. Introduce them to your friends and family. 68. Tell them how much you like being with them. 69. Let them solve most of their own problems. 70. Meet their friends. 71. Meet their parents. 72. Let them tell you how they feel. 73. Help them become an expert at something. 74. Be excited when you see them. 75. Tell them about yourself. 76. Let them act their age. 77. **Praise more, criticize less.** 78. Be consistent. 79. **Admit when you make a mistake.** 80. Enjoy your time together. 81. Give them a special nickname. 82. Marvel at what they can do. 83. Tell them how proud you are of them. 84. Pamper them. 85. Unwind together. 86. Be happy. 87. Ask them to help you. 88. Support them. 89. **Applaud their successes.** 90. Deal with problems and conflicts while they are still small. 91. Chaperone a dance. 92. Tell them stories in which they are the hero. 93. **Believe in them.** 94. Nurture them with good food, good words and good fun. 95. Be flexible. 96. Delight in their uniqueness. 97. Let them make mistakes. 98. Notice when they grow. 99. **Wave and honk when you drive by them.** 100. Give them immediate feedback. 101. Include them in conversations. 102. Respect them. 103. Join in their adventures. 104. Visit their schools. 105. Help them learn something new. 106. Be understanding when they have a difficult day. 107. Give them good choices. 108. Respect the choices they made. 109. **Be silly together.** 110. Hang out together. 111. Make time to be with them. 112. Inspire their creativity. 113. Accept them as they are. 114. **Become their advocate.** 115. Appreciate their personality. 116. Talk openly with them. 117. Tolerate their interruptions. 118. Trust them. 119. Share a secret. 120. Write a chalk message on their sidewalk. 121. Create a safe open environment. 122. Be available. 123. **Cheer their accomplishments.** 124. Encourage them to help others. 125. Tackle new tasks together. 126. Believe what they say. 127. Help them take a stand and stand with them. 128. Daydream with them. 129. Do what they like to do. 130. Make decisions together. 131. **Magnify their magnificence.** 132. Build something together. 133. **Encourage them to think big.** 134. Celebrate their firsts and lasts, such as first school day. 135. Go places together. 136. Welcome their suggestions. 137. Visit them when they're sick. 138. Tape record a message for them. 139. Help them learn from their mistakes. 140. Be sincere. 141. **Introduce them to people of excellence.** 142. Tell them what you expect of them. 143. Give them your phone number. 144. Introduce them to new experiences. 145. Share a meal together. 146. Talk directly together. 147. Be spontaneous. 148. Expect their best; don't expect perfection. 149. Empower them to help and be themselves. 150. **Love them no matter what.**

# GW holds Eagle Court of Honor

By JO3 Matthew Liddell

A group of young patriots visited *USS George Washington* as the ship stopped in Jebel Ali for a port visit. The Boy Scouts of America, Troop 813, came on board *GW* so one of their members could receive top honors in the field of scouting.

“I was really excited to be here doing this,” said Michael Benjamin Stallings, who advanced from the rank of First Class Scout to Eagle Scout in a ceremony held in the fo’c’sle May 9.

Stallings rose through the ranks of scouting very quickly while traveling with his family to France and around the United Arab Emirates. He remained active in scouting and dedicated to fulfilling the requirements he would need to achieve Eagle Scout honors. After six years of scouting, Stallings is beginning his high school career in Dubai with one of the highest honors his organization can present to him.

“I want to keep it up,” Stallings said. “I want to help my fellow Scouts get where I am. If you set your goals and stay with it, you can achieve anything.”

Scouts are promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout in a ceremony called the Eagle Court of Honor. Stallings found his Court of Honor very well attended by both military personnel and his fellow Scouts. *GW*’s Commanding Officer, Capt. Martin Erdossy, Executive Officer, Capt. Dee Mewbourne, and Commander *George Washington Strike Group*, Rear Adm. Denby Starling, who also holds the rank of Eagle Scout, all took some time out of their port call in the UAE to pay homage to Stallings’ accomplishments.

“Once you’re an Eagle Scout, you’re always an eagle scout,” Starling said in his speech at the ceremony. Starling went on to say that he was very impressed with the accomplishments Stallings has made since becoming a scout, most notably that the newly-minted Eagle Scout and his troop helped introduce a new program called “Home Hospitality for Service Members.” Stallings helped arrange for about 70 different families in his area to take in service members who are visiting Dubai. The families provide both warm meals and sight seeing to service members who are away from home.

Stallings agrees with the presumption of most Americans that Dubai’s sandy and arid climate doesn’t fit in with the usual scouting routines of camping and hiking. Nevertheless, Stallings said he was able to make the most of it, and was able to earn all of his required merit badges.

“The only badges you can’t go for out here are the ones that require you to work in cold weather,” Stallings said, stressing that being a scout isn’t just about outdoorsman activities. He said that working to better his community and support his country are some of the top ideals a scout must adhere to and he was honored to be on board *GW* while the ship is underway supporting *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

“It really is a dream come true to be here and do this,” he said. “I want to thank everyone on board the aircraft carrier for all that they do.”



PHAN Andrew Wallace

**Boy Scout Troop 813 came on board *GW* where the level of Eagle Scout was conferred upon Michael Stallings during a ceremony in the fo’c’sle.**



# National Day of Prayer:

## Fellowship breakfast gives Sailors peace of mind

By JOSN Kary Favell

Observed every first Thurs-day in May, the National Day of Prayer has become increasingly popular throughout the United States. Last year, over 40,000 celebrations occurred nation-wide, and this year *USS George Washington* joined in with a breakfast to help make the day memorable for Sailors.

"It's great to be underway, performing our mission to recognize Sailors who are willing to pause for a moment to come together and pray," said Lt. Charles Rowley, *Carrier Air Wing 7's* command chaplain and an event coordinator.

The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by President Harry S. Truman, and since then, prayer breakfasts have become a popular way of promoting spiritual well being and focusing on America's spiritual heritage.

"It's a great way to get Sailors together to share in fellowship," Rowley said. "We were able to bring all faith groups together to join their hearts and their spirits in this opportunity to pray."

Hearty eating was just the celebration's beginning on the forward mess decks Friday morning. About 100

Sailors enjoyed spiritual nourishment through prayers for fellow military members, national and international leaders, friends and family. They also enjoyed musical entertainment from *GW's* Christian Fellowship Choir, and even a group sing-along.

"I think the breakfast was a really good way to give thanks for all of the blessings we have," said TM3 Carlos Hankinlopez. "It was a great way to start my day."

Rowley was happy with the turnout and said the breakfast was a great success. "The breakfast was outstanding. We had such great participation from a lot of folks who were willing to give up their free time. We really appreciate all the hard work from everyone involved with the National Day of Prayer breakfast," Rowley said. "The participants were committed to the cause and understood the significance of the event."

"In times like these, it's very important to recognize that we need to call on someone higher than ourselves at times. As our nation continues to fight the war on terrorism it is only fitting that we continue to seek God's guidance and give thanks for our many blessings."



PHAN(AW) Janice Kreischer

**The GW Christian Fellowship Choir entertains Sailors during a gourmet breakfast in celebration of National Day of Prayer. For 52 years, the breakfast celebration has honored America's spiritual heritage.**

## Jebel Ali only gets better



PHAN(AW) Janice Kreischer

**The Sunset Safari offered Sailors the chance to watch a desert sunset, see a belly dancer, sand board, enjoy some great food or even get a henna tattoo. This was the crew's second visit to Jebel Ali this deployment, and Sailors once again relished the opportunity to take in some foreign culture and continue in their roles as ambassadors for the Navy and the United States.**

Department of the Navy  
USS George Washington (CVN 73)  
Command Family Ombudsman  
FPO-AE 09550-2873  
Official Business

## USS George Washington (CVN-73)

[www.spear.navy.mil/gw/](http://www.spear.navy.mil/gw/)

We-Care Line (757) 444-0460  
Out of the area 1-800-372-5463

## Command Family Ombudsman

[gwombud@aol.com](mailto:gwombud@aol.com)

Lisa D. —544-0395

Lisa C. —804-758-9550

Tamara —544-0397

Elizabeth Anne —544-0403

Jennie —544-0401

Sandy —544-5443

Shelby —544-4924

## American Red Cross

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



[www.ffsncorva.navy.mil](http://www.ffsncorva.navy.mil)

<b>LITTLE CREEK</b>	<b>757-462-7563</b>
Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
<b>NEWPORT NEWS</b>	<b>757-688-NAVY</b>
Mon-Thus 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. & Fri 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	
<b>NORFOLK</b>	<b>757-444-2102</b>
Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
<b>PORTSMOUTH</b>	<b>757-396-1255</b>
Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>757-421-8770</b>
Mon-Wed 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thur 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Fri 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	
<b>OCEANA</b>	<b>757-433-2912</b>
Mon-Thur 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Fri 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	
<b>YORKTOWN</b>	<b>757-887-4606</b>
Mon-Thurs 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. & Fri 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	

## Sea Warriors under pressure



PHAN Chris Stephens

Four Sailors concentrate during an oral board for their Enlisted Surface Warfare Pin. The oral board, normally conducted by chief petty officers, is the final step in becoming warfare qualified. So far this deployment, almost 1,000 Sailors have survived the rigorous three-hour board, and many of those have even added a second pin. Becoming warfare qualified is an essential accomplishment for any Sailor who wishes to some day wear chief's anchors.